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U.S.I.A. DROPS PLAN ON WARREN DATA

Idea of Distributing Russian Version in Soviet Canceled

WASHINGTON, April 3 (UPI)—After months of preparation, the United States Government has abandoned plans for distribution in the Soviet Union of a Russian translation of the Warren Commission Report on the assassination of President Kennedy.

The United States Information Agency worked through the winter on a project to have the 888-page document translated into Russian.

The translation, which was done by a private contractor at United States expense, has now been completed in draft form and is being edited.

U.S.I.A. officials said that a "limited number" of copies would be sent to the United States Embassy in Moscow to be made available to Soviet readers.

Originally, the agency had planned to send 10,000 copies to Russia.

The idea grew out of an observation by United States Ambassador Foy D. Kohler in Moscow after publication of the Warren Report on Sept. 27, 1964. Mr. Kohler said that the report's main conclusion—that the assassination was the work of one man and was not a right-wing plot—appeared to be lost on many Russians.

The Soviet press contributed to this feeling among Russian citizens.

When the U.S.I.A. embarked on the project, it apparently failed to realize that translating the huge volume, essentially a legal document, would prove to be an immense, scholarly job requiring a great deal of time.

The agency's arrangement with the first contractor it hired was ended after work had begun. About four months ago the agency hired the Institute of Modern Languages here to complete the job.

The institute put about 10 experts in Russian to work, some of them recruited from universities.

U.S.I.A. officials gave three main reasons for canceling the distribution plan. They said that the job had taken longer than had been expected and the events were pretty far in the past; through the agency's regular radio and press releases the report's message may be reaching the Russian people; a summary of the report was published recently in Amerika, the Russian-language magazine that the information agency circulates in the Soviet Union.

The same issue of Amerika also contained a brief announcement that copies of the full report in Russian would soon be available at the Moscow Embassy. The Russians have made no objection.